

# EMPEROR OF CHINA IS REPORTED DEAD

**His Mother, the Dowager Empress, Who Is Real Ruler, Said to Be Dying**

## SECURITY MAKES TRUTH DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN

**Two Important Imperial Edicts  
Give Strong Color to Tenor  
of Reports.**

PEKING, Nov. 13.—The Emperor of China was reported dead at 4 o'clock this morning. It had, however, been impossible to secure official confirmation of this announcement up to 6

Two imperial edicts were issued from the palace this afternoon in quick succession. The first makes Prince Chun regent of the empire and the second

**May Be Still Alive.**

Simultaneously with the removal of the emperor to the death chamber in the Forbidden City, the members of the grand council assembled in the palace.

All the government offices were deserted. The palace is crowded with officials.

Prince Chun, in 1891. He is a lieutenant-general of the Plain White Banner corps, and visited Germany in 1901 as a special commissioner of the throne.

**Clung to Superstition.**

This last illness of the emperor as-

His majesty has been suffering for

with diabetes and sciatica. It was admitted yesterday that his brain was affected. The members of the grand council have been in close attendance at the palace for ten days. Statements officially gazetted that his majesty was in conference with the councillors were

The rumor that the dowager empress is dying, if true, would explain the two edicts issued late this afternoon regarding a regency for the empire.

The foreign residents of Peking are confused by the sudden developments.

is absolutely impossible to obtain any official confirmation of the reported death of the emperor and the condition of the dowager empress. There is a certain amount of speculation in regard to what is actually transpiring.

emperor, if he is not already dead, to screen the condition of the dowager empress. The edicts of today bear the name of Kuang-Hsu, which indicates that he was still alive at the hour the members of the grand council were in

The hour of the day at which these edicts were issued shows that the im-

pointment of Prince Chun to the regency, awaited the return of Prince Ching, president of the board of foreign affairs, from the eastern tomb, whither he went to inspect the mausoleum of the dowager empress.

The emperor was born in 1870. His succession to the throne was one of the

succession from a generation the same as that of his predecessor, although the conviction of the Manchu dynasty and precedent provide that the succession shall go to the next following generation.

the dynasty. Kuang Hsu and Ch'ien Lung each having reigned and ruled sixty years.

**Successor Vexes Question.**

The question of the succession has agitated the imperial family since the

seriously undermined. In January of 1900 the dowager empress adopted Pu Chun, son of Prince Tunn, the boxer chieftain, heir-apparent, but she disinherited him in November 1901, at the behest of the allied powers. Since then the matter of an heir-apparent has been

The dowager empress is, and the emperor was, a Manchu; in other words, foreigners in China, and under the ban of Chinese patriots and an increasing anti-Manchu party, which has sought

10